

(d) the details of the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Department of Tourism has a scheme to provide Central financial assistance to the State Governments/UT Administrations every year for development and promotion of tourism.

(b) In consultation with the State Government of Arunachal Pradesh 20 projects amounting to Rs. 2.97 crores during 2000-2001 have been prioritised for construction of Wayside Amenities, Budget Accommodation, Adventure Sports, Fairs and Festivals etc.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

Construction of Yatri Niwases at tourists sports in Maharashtra

2680. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to construct Yatri Niwases at tourist spots in Maharashtra to attract middle class tourists;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the budget allocations proposed therefor, and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Development and promotion of tourist spots/places of tourist interest is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. However, Department of Tourism, Government of India provides Central financial assistance to the State Governments/UTs for projects prioritised every year in consultation with them.

The Central Department of Tourism has approved two schemes for construction of Yatri Niwases at Jyotiba, District Kolhapur and at Nanded during the year 1999-2000 to *inter-alia* attract middle class tourists.

(b) Rs. 48.77 lakhs have been sanctioned for construction of Yatri Niwas at Nanded and Rs. 48.39 have been sanctioned for Yatri Niwas at Jyotiba as Central financial assistance.

(c) Does not arise.